

News Notes

of the Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors

Army courtmartials two objectors

Denied discharges as COs

The Department of the Army continues adamant in its refusal to discharge men who become conscientious objectors while in the Army. Two conscientious objectors stationed at military posts near Washington, D.C. were recently courtmartialed and other COs are facing courtmartial at Ft. Dix, New Jersey.

Pvt. Donald Heath was courtmartialed on May 24 on the charge of refusing to wear the uniform. He was sentenced to three months hard labor and \$50 a month pay deduction. At the time Heath entered the Army in 1959 he did not have clearly formulated conscientious objection to military duty. However, in October of 1959 Donald Heath applied for discharge for convenience of the government because of his conscientious scruples against further military duty. This request was denied, as was a second one some months later. Heath, a Methodist from Los Angeles, has an excellent service record. He has been stationed at Ft. Belvoir, Virginia where he has been performing noncombatant duty in the Army hospital. He was due to be discharged in July.

Recently Donald Heath applied again for discharge. Efforts to postpone the courtmartial until the discharge application could be acted on were unsuccessful. The Army does not question the sincerity of Heath's CO position. An Army chaplain testified at the courtmartial that Heath was sincere and that his views would not be changed by a courtmartial sentence.

Pvt. Karlo Forsberg, a young Catholic conscientious objector, was sentenced by a general courtmartial some weeks ago to five months imprisonment and two-thirds pay deduction. The conviction was thrown out on a technicality. On May 22 he was tried again and sentenced to three months imprisonment and a \$35 monthly pay deduction for refusing to obey an order. Forsberg had enlisted in the Army and had been assigned to duty with the Army Security Agency in Japan. Later he was transferred to Ft. Belvoir, Virginia where he finally was compelled by conscience to refuse all further orders.

CCCO is currently seeking information on three other conscientious objectors, stationed at the Ft. Dix infantry training center who face courtmartial.

The CO counseling agencies have sought for years to persuade the Army to recognize the problem of men who become conscientious objectors after entering the service and who cannot perform noncombatant duty. The Army continues to follow the policy of retaining these conscientious objectors in the service with assignment to noncombatant positions unless the man is found "unsuitable or unfit" for any military duty. Those COs who cannot in good conscience perform noncombatant duty have no alternative but to disobey an order and face courtmartial, imprisonment and eventually discharge under other than honorable conditions.

The Army's policy is in sharp contrast to that of the Air Force and the Navy which recognize the problem of conscientious objection and provide simple procedures for honorable discharge when the CO presents his case with supporting evidence. Just last year the U. S. Army Reserve adopted a regulation specifically providing for discharge of conscientious objectors.

Wires and Letters Are Needed

The ultimate responsibility for the harsh and unfair treatment being accorded Donald Heath, Karlo Forsberg, and other conscientious objectors in the Army rests with the Department of Defense which is charged by Congress with establishing uniform policies and practices in the various branches of the armed forces.

NEWS NOTES readers are asked to wire or write the Secretary of Defense, Robert S. McNamara, Washington, D.C. urging the Secretary (1) to establish an orderly procedure for the handling of CO discharges from the Army, and (2) to take immediate steps to redress the penalties imposed on Donald Heath and Karlo Forsberg. Letters to your Congressmen asking them to raise this question with the Secretary of Defense can be helpful. *Wire or write now.* CCCO will appreciate copies of such communications. Evidence of widespread public disapproval of the present Army policy toward conscientious objectors can result in establishing a fair policy of discharging conscientious objectors from the Army.

An appeal for help

Twice a year, in the spring and again in the fall, CCCO reports to its supporters and invites their contributions in support of the right of conscience. Through the years the generous and continued support of many hundreds of people has enabled the very small staff of CCCO to devote its full time to counseling and assisting the conscientious objector.

The continued operation of the peacetime draft has been paralleled by a steady interest in the provisions for conscientious objectors. For instance, in April CCCO counseled 23 new "cases" and assisted 51 other COs already in touch with CCCO. During the first six months of the current year we have answered innumerable general inquiries about conscientious objection and have distributed over 500 copies of the HANDBOOK FOR CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS published by CCCO. Many of the COs who come to us for help have been denied a CO classification. Each individual request receives the best personal attention the staff is capable of giving. The Committee endeavors to give reliable information and advice and friendly and understanding support to the individual objector regardless of the basis of his conscientious objection to war.

Expenses this past year have been heavy and CCCO's funds have been depleted. If you have been intending to send a contribution but have not yet done so we ask you to act now. A generous response will ensure your continued support of the conscientious objector. Make your check payable to CCCO and mail it to 2006 Walnut St., Philadelphia 3, Pennsylvania.

Court rules CO not guilty

United States District Court Judge Gus J. Solomon, Portland, Oregon, recently ruled that Paul Dean Lane, a conscientious objector and a member of the Radio Church of God, had been denied civilian draft work conforming to his religious requirements and beliefs. The court found Lane not guilty of the charge of refusing to report for civilian work as charged by Selective Service.

Judge Solomon found that Lane had reported to Holladay Park Hospital in Portland in June, 1959 to perform civilian work contributing to the maintenance of the national health, safety and interest. The hospital refused to give consideration to Lane's conscientious beliefs regarding observance of his Sabbath and holy days and required him to work on those days forbidden by his religious faith. He refused to work at the hospital and was indicted for violation of the law.

Briefly noted

Corbett Bishop, well known World War II absolutist CO, was shot to death May 17 at his home in Hamilton, Alabama by a teenager intent on robbery. Bishop will be remembered by many as an unbending foe of conscription. After walking out of a CO work camp he was sentenced to four years imprisonment. He practiced complete passive resistance and refused to cooperate with authorities during his imprisonment. Twice he was released from prison because authorities feared he would die. Corbett Bishop sought only to be consistent with his belief that one should not cooperate with war nor the process of imprisoning a man who followed his conscience.

Maurice F. McCrackin was suspended indefinitely from his position as pastor of the Cincinnati-St. Barnabas Church by the Cincinnati Presbytery in May because of his actions in refusing to pay income taxes as a protest against war. He was accused by the Presbytery of "resisting the ordinances of God" when he refused cooperation with the government's efforts to collect back taxes from him. McCrackin has appealed his suspension to the Presbyterian Synod of Ohio.

Richard Zink, Ambler, Pa., recently notified Selective Service that he could no longer cooperate with the draft. He stated that compulsory military service and civilian alternative service are both forms of slavery. He felt that he cannot muzzle his conscience by accepting civilian work. Zink recently pled guilty to the charge of unauthorized boarding of a Navy *Polaris* submarine and is awaiting sentence.

CCCO has prepared a *Memorandum on Occupational Deferments* which summarizes draft regulations relating to occupational deferments. Draft registrants seeking appointment to the Peace Corp will find this memorandum especially helpful. Write CCCO for a copy.

Brent Howell and *William Wingell*, two Allentown, Pennsylvania newspapermen, were fired recently from their jobs with the Allentown Morning-Call "for breach of company policy" after participating in separate civil defense protest demonstrations in Allentown. Brent Howell, a Quaker and father of three young children, is still seeking another job.

The Board of Trustees of Michigan State University, East Lansing, voted on May 18 to make participation in ROTC optional starting with the fall of 1963.

The University of California Board of Regents voted last December to exempt conscientious objectors from ROTC "on the same basis provided for non-student exemption from military training under the Selective Service System." This action was taken after the Regents voted to postpone action on making ROTC optional.

The book corner

The Forbidden Voyage is the exciting story of the dramatic voyage of the Reynolds family on their yacht, *Phoenix*, into the Atomic Energy Commission's forbidden Pacific Ocean testing area in a protest against continued nuclear bomb tests. In matter-of-fact language the author, Earle Reynolds, tells how he came to the decision to sail, what happened on the voyage, and the consequences. The excitement of the sea, the tension of the moment as *Phoenix* neared the forbidden zone and was intercepted by a U. S. Coast Guard cutter, and the drama of the unfriendly courtroom in Honolulu kept me reading far into the night.

More than anything else this book is the story of an ordinary man who did an extraordinary thing, to use the words of Earle Reynolds' attorney, John Silard, because the circumstances required that he act. If a moral is needed it is found in Earle Reynolds' statement, "But the important thing, it seems to me, is that a good act, even though done by a very imperfect man, goes far beyond his own unworthiness and makes him in the end better than he was in the beginning." Those who have ever asked "But what can one man do?" may find an answer if they will ponder these words of Earle Reynolds. (David McKay Co., Inc., New York, 1961, 281 pp. \$4.95. May be ordered postpaid from CCCO.)

Conscientious Objectors in The Civil War, by Edward Needles Wright, has been reprinted by A. S. Barnes & Co., New York City (274 pp. \$1.95). Published originally by the University of Pennsylvania Press in 1931, this interesting volume considers the problems of conscientious objectors in the Civil War. The author relates the efforts made to improve the status of conscientious objectors in the North and the South, and the attitude of the civil and military authorities toward the conscientious objector. World War II COs will recognize familiar problems. The serious student of conscientious objection ought not to overlook this paperback.

The Pacifist Ethics and Humanism, a 12-page Student Peace Union Pamphlet (5504 S. Woodlawn Avenue, Chicago 37, Illinois, 10 cents), attempts to show the relationship between pacifism and humanism. The author, Philip Altbach, is a student at the University of Chicago and is General Chairman of the Student Peace Union. He defines a humanist as one "who feels that concern for human welfare is of central importance." The author believes that the pacifist answer is the only one that is morally compatible with the views of the humanist.

Organizing for Nonviolent Direct Action is a practical handbook full of specific suggestions of practical use to those interested in applying nonviolence in the struggle

for peace and social justice. Helpful suggestions are made on how to get a nonviolent action project started; on training for nonviolence; how to plan for direct action; how to work out a corporate discipline, and how to develop a publicity campaign. Order from the author, Charles Walker, Cheyney, Pennsylvania, 50 cents; special price on quantity orders.

Jack Long acquitted

Jack Haskell Long, Los Angeles CO, was acquitted last February in the U. S. District Court in Los Angeles of the charge of refusing to report for induction into the armed forces. Long had sought the I-O classification (conscientious objector willing to perform civilian work) and on appeal was classified I-A-O (conscientious objector assigned to noncombatant work in the military).

J. B. Tietz, attorney for Jack Long, argued that his client should have access to the FBI reports and the Hearing Officer's notes for any help they might furnish to establish evidence of Long's sincerity in his claim for the I-O classification. The court made an *in camera* inspection of the FBI notes and found nothing derogatory.

The defense further argued that one of Long's witnesses had mistakenly told the FBI that Long was willing to perform noncombatant work and the Hearing Officer later used this as evidence that Long was not consistent in his claim. Following the hearing, Long wrote a letter to his board correcting this misinformation. The defense established in court that this letter was never sent to the appeal board to be included in Long's file and was never considered by the appeal board when it reached its decision. U. S. District Judge William C. Mathes agreed that the defendant's veracity was in question and this alone would be a basis in fact for denying Long's claim for the I-O classification. The court further agreed that failure to forward Long's letter to the State Appeal Board was a denial of due process and ordered the acquittal. Shortly after, Long was classified I-O by his draft board.

Newspaper clippings help COs

NEWS NOTES readers can help CCCO by regularly sending newspaper clippings about conscientious objectors. Some COs get into trouble because they have not known where they can turn for help. We need more news clippings to insure a better coverage across the country. Please clip all news stories about conscientious objectors to the draft, COs in trouble in the military, COs to payment of taxes for war, and items on civil defense protests. Quite often CCCO is able to follow up on information contained in a clipping and give helpful assistance to a CO. All you need to do is clip the item, not the source and the date, and mail to CCCO.

The Court Reporter

Prosecutions

Sentences (none reported since last issue)

Released from prison

1-1-61 Levi L. Hershberger (on parole)
1-1-61 Eli J. Miller (on parole)

Currently imprisoned

Allenwood, Pa.—David W. Miller, Daniel N. Swartzen-
truber, Benjamin C. Yoder
Danbury, Conn.—William Henry
La Tuna, Texas—Jerry M. Wheeler
Terminal Island, Calif.—Stanley L. Rhodes

Total number of COs convicted of Selective Service viola-
tions since 1948 to date, 364. This is a minimum
number.

They said "No" to CD

The nation-wide civil defense drill known as "Operation
Alert" met with widespread protests in many cities and
on many college campuses. New York City again led
with a demonstration in City Hall park in which 1,500
men, women, and children participated. Fifty persons
were arrested. Student groups in many cities staged
demonstrations and refused to take cover when ordered.
NEWS NOTES is honored to list the names of all those
known to have been arrested. Our total is 122, but we
know there are others whose names we do not have. We

regret that limited space does not permit listing of sen-
tences of each.

Hartford, Conn.—James D'Ancona, David Hilden, Beverly Kaneg-
son, Ken Meister, Blossom and Seymour Segaloff, Jonathan Robi-
son, Marjorie Swann, and Wendell Wing. *Middletown, Conn.*—
Walter Fricks, Jr., William Siegman. *Norwich, Conn.*—Torvald
Faegre, Edwin Guerard. *Plainville, Conn.*—Janet Sykes.

Durham, N. H.—Alice Boody, Henry H. Bouchard, Chester Cad-
rette, Richard A. Carlton, James A. Cook, Robert N. Deane, David
R. Diamond, Richard R. Downey, Thomas Escajadillo, Kathleen
Fine, Richard Grover, Bob Kingsley, Albert Martinet, Jr., Donald
Morrison, John Makunas, Allen E. Pinsince, Chauncey Uphoff,
Frank Wells.

Denville, N. J.—Richard Fredericks. *Madison, N. J.*—Lois Cong-
don, Robert Fluck, Neal Mosher. *Montclair, N. J.*—John Adams.
Plainfield, N. J.—Ray Churchfield, Howard Jump, Desmond Mc-
Lean, Curt and Rosalie Regen, Stephen Shapiro. *Princeton, N. J.*
—Ted Goertzel. *Tenafly, N. J.*—Thomas Karpe, David Trimble.

Albany, N. Y.—JoAnn Mongiore, Douglas Seeran. *Katonah, N. Y.*
—Nancy Frith. *Mt. Kisco, N. Y.*—Lois Congdon. *New Wood-
stock, N. Y.*—Neil Mosher. *Rochester, N. Y.*—Gerald Shapiro,
Roy Torkington, David Warts. *Spring Valley, N. Y.*—Ruth Best,
Oscar Dike, Vera Williams. *Woodstock, N. Y.*—Holly Cantine,
Jr., Mona Fletcher, Gerien K. Jacober, Jeanie Neild, Dorothy C.
Seacrist.

New York City, N. Y.—Dan Aronson, John Barker, Robert Bay-
lor, Paula Blum, Albert Bonk, John Bossom, Thomas Brooks,
Samuel Broton, Bruce Brown, Carol Casher, Jane Cohen, Hilde-
gard Deitz, Ralph DiGia, Steven Durkee, Peter Friedlander, Rob-
ert Gilmore, Steven Golin, Colin Gonze, Samuel Grossman, Lee
Haring, Mrs. M. Tjader Harris, Lion Harvey, Philip Havey, Rob-
ert Hilsman, Steven Hirsch, Charles Hitchcock, Allan Hoffman,
John Ingersoll, Michael Itkin, Elizabeth Just, Levi Laub, Michael
LeFevre, Eli Levin, Don Martin, Dave McReynolds, Ronald
Muszlaski, Oscar Ochs, Larry Orenstein, Pancho Perlman, Michael
Phillips, Joan Potok, Charles Rapp, Frank Redfield, Victor Rich-
man, Linda Rosenstock, Gregor Rowland, Herbert Ruben, Mark
D. Schleifer, Elaine Schmidt, Virginia Schuler, William Shari,
David Sider, Mary Simons, Walter Thabit, Happy Traum, Marvin
Treiger, Gil Turner, Norval Welch, Rose Wood.

Note to the peace-minded

Persons interested in development in the peace and
pacifist world read **Fellowship** magazine, the pub-
lication of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, the 45-
year-old, 12,000 member organization. Accept the
challenge of readership and subscribe to this out-
standing journal of pacifist opinion!

To subscribe — write:

Fellowship of Reconciliation, Box 271, Nyack, N. Y.

- ☐ I enclose \$3.00 (students, \$2.00), for a year's sub-
scription to **Fellowship** magazine.
☐ Send me a recent issue of **Fellowship** magazine,
so that I might get acquainted.
☐ Send me material on the general work of FOR.

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____

Room 300, 2006 Walnut Street
Philadelphia 3, Pa.

Form 3547 Requested

Forwarding Postage Guaranteed

